

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 03768 060048Z

16
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3768

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-80
TAGS: MCAP, NATO, NL
SUBJ: DPC MEETING JULY 5: NATO'S UNCLASSIFIED VIEWS ON
NETHERLANDS DEFENSE PLANS

REF: (A) USNATO 3682, (B) STATE 144592 (NOTAL)

FOLLOWING IS DRAFT TEXT OF NATO'S UNCLASSIFIED VIEWS OF
NETHERLANDS DRAFT DEFENSE PLANS WHICH EMERGED FROM DPC MEETING
JULY 5. SYG WILL RELEASE APPROVED TEXT TO PRESS EVENING OF
JULY 10 WITH EMBARGO UNTIL JULY 11. BEGIN TEXT:

1. THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC
COUNCIL HAS CONSIDERED THE CHANGES PROPOSED IN THE STRUCTURE
OF THE NETHERLANDS ARMED FORCES, AS COMMUNICATED TO THEM ON
21ST MAY, 1974. THIS COMMUNICATION INITIATED THE PROCESS OF
CONSULTATION WITHIN NATO IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ESTABLISHED
PROCEDURES. THE ALLIES WELCOMED THE ACTION OF THE NETHERLANDS
GOVERNMENT IN CONSULTING THEM BEFORE REACHING FINAL DECISIONS,
AND THEIR ASSURANCE THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO STUDY FURTHER
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PAGE 02 NATO 03768 060048Z

THE RECOMMENDATIONS EMANATING FROM THIS CONSULTATION AFTER THE
PUBLICATION OF THE WHITE PAPER, AND TO TAKE THESE RECOMMENDA-
TIONS INTO ACCOUNT WHEREVER POSSIBLE.

2. NO NATION CAN ASSURE ITS SECURITY ALONE; COLLECTIVE SECURITY IS A BASIC PRINCIPLE OF THE ALLIANCE. THIS IMPLIES AN ESSENTIAL OBLIGATION FOR EACH COUNTRY TO CONTRIBUTE ITS SHARE TO COMMON DEFENCE; NO COUNTRY SHOULD REDUCE ITS FORCE CONTRIBUTION UNILATERALLY. MOREOVER, ALL COUNTRIES HAVE RECENTLY REAFFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE THEY CONTINUE TO ATTACH, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY, TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT NATO FORCES SHOULD NOT BE REDUCED EXCEPT IN THE CONTEXT OF AN MBFR AGREEMENT.

3. NATO HAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT AN INITIAL MILITARY EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSALS BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE. ON THE BASIS OF THIS AND OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE, THE ALLIES HAVE COME TO THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONAL JUDGEMENT CONCERNING THE PROPOSALS AS REVISED BY THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT.

4. WERE THE NETHERLANDS DEFENCE PROPOSALS TO BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED, THEY WOULD SHARE WITH GREAT CONCERN THE GENERAL CONCLUSION OF THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE NETHERLANDS FORCES WOULD HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE DEFENCE CAPABILITY OF THE ALLIANCE. THE DETAILED VIEWS OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE ON SPECIFIC FEATURES OF THE NEW PLAN HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT IN CLASSIFIED FORM.

5. A DECISION BY THE NETHERLANDS TO REDUCE THEIR FORCES IN THE MANNER PROPOSED WOULD SERIOUSLY WEAKEN NATO DEFENCES. TO REDRESS THESE WEAKNESSES WOULD REQUIRE AN INCREASE IN THE MILITARY AND FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF OTHER ALLIES. THE ECONOMIC PRESSURES AND THE COMPETING CLAIMS ON PUBLIC RESOURCES IN THE NETHERLANDS ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN OTHER ALLIED COUNTRIES AND DO NOT OF THEMSELVES PROVIDE JUSTIFICATION FOR REDUCTIONS IN FORCES PROPOSED. SUCH REDUCTIONS WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE ALLIANCE TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THEIR PRESENT FORCES.

6. THE NETHERLANDS IS A PROSPEROUS COUNTRY. NEVERTHELESS OVER RECENT YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A DOWNWARD TREND IN THE TOTAL
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PAGE 03 NATO 03768 060048Z

EXPENDITURE OF THE NETHERLANDS ON DEFENCE, BOTH IN RELATION TO THE GROSS NATIONAL PRODUCT AND THE NATIONAL BUDGET AS A WHOLE. IF THE PRESENT PROPOSALS ARE PURSUED THEY WILL LEAD TO A NETHERLANDS MILITARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE WHICH WOULD BE LESS THAN SHOULD BE EXPECTED, GIVEN THE RESOURCES OF THE COUNTRY.

7. THE OVERRIDING NEED FOR ALL MEMBER COUNTRIES TO MAINTAIN THE SOLIDARITY OF THE ALLIANCE IN MILITARY AS WELL AS POLITICAL TERMS WAS RE-EMPHASISED. IN IN THIS RESPECT, THE ALLIES HVE NOTED THE ASSURANCES GIVEN BY THE NETHERLANDS MINISTER OF DEFENCE TO HIS COLLEAGUES ON 14TH JUNE THAT PLANS FOR REDUCTINS IN THE READY STRENGTH OF THE ARMY WOULD BE SUSPENDED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AGREED POLICY OF THE ALLIANCE, UNTIL THE

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS HAVE ACHIEVED THE DESIRED RESULTS, WITHOUT
DETRIMENT TO OTHER SECTORS OF THE NETHERLANDS DEFENCE EFFORT
FOR THE ALLIANCE.

8. THE ALLIES HAVE WELCOMED THE WILLINGNESS OF THE
NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE THE CONSULTATION WITH NATO ON
ALL ASPECTS OF THEIR DEFENCE PLANS AFTER THE WHITE PAPER HAS BEEN
PUBLISHED, AND HAVE REQUESTED THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO CONVEY
THEY ABOVE VIEWS TO THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT TO URGE THEM TO
TAKE THESE VIEWS INTO SERIOUS CONSIDERATION.

END TEXT. RUMSFELD

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